NATURAL ENERGY

The one aspect of life that everyone looks forward to in life is the future, the future gives people hope, and it gives people a reason to keep moving forward and thinking positive about life. Some things as to why people cannot wait for the future could range from getting married to settling down for post-retirement. Another thing the future holds is the potential for new technology, new technology is a very broad category so breaking it down would be things like new computers, new cars, and new ways to help solve Earths problems. Being said that the future hold mostly everything in store for us it could also be taken away just as easy. As of right now the future is in a very fragile place because what we as humans are doing in these times is really putting a damper on the things we could be doing in the future. As of right now we need all of the help we can get because according to the EPA website the rising temperatures could cause a real blow to our vegetation systems (epa). The reason the time ahead of us in danger is because of the things we are doing right now in our lives, what we are doing right now is telling basically telling this planet we call our home that we do not deserve to live on it. We as humans are destroying this planet, we are starting from the outer core and going all the way to the center of Earth. You see people just like you walking by and trashing up the place and other people around them not saying a word about it either. What mostly lies in the problem is people are just plain lazy and don’t feel like walking all the way to the trash can to throw away their empty water bottle and leftover bag they have from their fast food meal. All of these little things that people don’t really take into consideration are adding up and starting to become a problem. In the last decade you could also say things have grown exponentially in polluting the Earth. This problem with Earth has only been in the minds of few, mainly people who are heavily involved with nature and people who work to discover what this planet is all about. The other 95% of Earth’s population doesn’t seem to care what happens, everyone is all caught up and too busy in their lives. What has happened in the past few years is that most people have agreed to the placement of many renewable energy sources around them. Only in the past couple of years have we started to use renewable, alternative, or natural energy to start saving this planet. Natural energy involves wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, and biomass. For wind we have giant windmills you might see along the highway when you are driving, for solar energy we have solar panels that gather light rays from the sun, and for hydroelectric we dams and walls that waves go through. In 2013 out all of the energy used on Earth whether it would be used towards flushing the toilet late at night or powering up the stage for the super bowl a total of 24.3% was used strictly from renewable energy(Eurostat).

What questions I would like to be answered when I am completed with this paper is that how has Earth gotten into such a deep hole with all of pollution and the greenhouse emissions? Another big part that I really would not call a question but just a general thought would be how do we get out of this hole without making a big mess of money and making the people around us more happy as well.

BACKGROUND AND SECONDARY RESEARCH: I understand incorporating the values of renewable energy and living the busy lives that each one of us lives is very hard but we as humans brought this upon ourselves to bring earth back to the way it was. In a peer-reviewed article called “A Framework for Alternative Energy Development: Shifting from Drilling Rigs to Renewables.” Written by Timothy Holahan. In this article it talks a lot about how the renewable energy age has affected the way humans live their daily lives. In the article it talks about something called NIMBY which translates to “not in my backyard”. This is a theory most people have been living by and what it basically means is that someone who lives by this agrees with all of these changes to the world but they do not want anything with renewable energy to affect them. For example the saying “not in my backyard” is referring to someone putting a windmill in their backyard that would help other people around them but it would be in your backyard (Holahan).

With the different ways of retrieving natural energy such as wind power which is the cleanest way to get energy, solar energy which can help save habitats and help the use of less hazardous material in factories, geothermal energy this is used the most out of the other natural energies to convert into energy, and hydrokinetic energy which is brand new and there is still a lot to discover about it (<http://www.ucsusa.org/>).

In the second part Holahan’s article he started to get more in depth about what to do to make everyone happy which is including the NIMBY population and the group of people who agree with having renewable energy as our main source of energy. Holahan discusses about renewable energy underneath the ocean which means that it will not be in anyone’s way. His method which is called Rigs to Reef program and it is basically what the name refers too. Timothy Holahan wants to place all of the oil rigs we have above land and move all of their operations to the ocean floor. By doing this it will create less of a hassle for everyone that does not like it also Holahan described other benefits for Rigs to Reef such as making the breeding grounds for the fish underwater a better place to mate, another reason that it could be more cost efficient for people “Not only was Rigs to Reefs advantageous for industry, but the program would benefit environmentalists, as well as commercial and recreational fishermen. Oil rigs provide ideal habitats for many species of fish and other marine life. Using oil rigs as breeding grounds for marine life would serve conservation interests by providing additional habitats for many species, while providing additional sources of fish for commercial and recreational fishermen.”

In the next peer-reviewed article which is written by Daniel Mittler and is called “The changing ethics of climate change”. This article is discussing the many views people have against or for renewable energy. In the first part of this article Mittler is discussing the harmful effects of global warming and climate change. To break it down farther than that we could also say that Mittler was also very indepth about how different temperatures affect different parts of the world. Mittler is discussing his main views on what we should doing as a community to solve all of the problems that have been generated by us in the past. Also Mittler breaks it down for us humans as to what we need to start doing and when we need to start doing it “The true battle in climate and energy policy is between those who want to roll out clean and safe solutions and make them available for all, and those who want to cling to the old, polluting system that is controlled by the few.”

PRIMARY RESEARCH AND FINDINGS:

Figure 1

For my primary research I have conducted a survey on the website *survey monkey* which consisted of 6 basic question dealing with a very general description of the person like their age and what their views were on the matter of renewable energy. My main point of this survey was to see what generations are doing the most to help fix this planet because I can make the conclusion that the age group who is doing the most recycling is also doing the most to fix this planet up. Now according to my graph that I got from survey monkey and all of the participants that took time out of their day to do my survey it states that the age group from 15-30 does the most recycling. This is what I was expecting because I will hear in our high school or middle school classes is how important it is to recycle and save this planet. People above the age of 30 probably didn’t experience the same issues we are going through, mainly because back in the day recycling and renewable energy was not that big of a deal. People always used to say “we will worry about it in the future” yet here we are. Another thing that had surprised me was the number of people who generally knew about renewable energy.

DISCUSSION: Over both my primary research and the research that I have done online I could say that views are particularly split down the half. You could say that half of the people want/like the idea of changing more of our ways to fit around the idea of having renewable energy. The other half of the population also seems to be the way of do not want/hate the idea of changing of our ways and think we should use the money towards something more important (Conserve Energy Future). Another way this theory of idea is separated between people is by their age group. That is one big thing I noticed and looked more in depth to, if you ever notice that mostly the younger generation is doing the most it to save this planet. The reason for this is because people who are old now did not have to worry about saving the planet or making sure that every piece of garbage gets thrown into the trash. This is because that generation of people, which you could say are our parents or older relatives such as aunts and uncles, grew up learning that the most important thing was to get a job and start a family. They did not have really any other worries, also another big problem during those times was the war. War is a big thing in the renewable energy debate because it took a long time and caused a lot of problems for post-war. The main reason that war was a concern was the huge time consumption, the fact that there were so many wars in the time that our parents have lived and gone through the years really affected us. The main war that happened during the times of our parents was the Vietnam War, and the Vietnam War happened at about the time that our parents were either in high school or going to college. This time for a normal human would be to experiment try new things for your future life but what everyone was concerned with back during the war was what was going to happen. This distracted people from the care of the Earth, which led to a higher boost in pollution.

To mediate on this situation in my opinion I believe there are pros and cons to both side of this situation most of the cons are leaning towards problems with money and where to locate them. The pros would be something along the lines of saving the world and having a future for our children. But in all cases we could assume that either sides has more of an argument than the other side does. Having said that there always has to be end solution where they solution is trying to solve both sides problems at the same time but usually that doesn’t work out because one side has to win. According to a government website the usage renewable energy has gone incredible up since the mid-1970s (eia).

In conclusion, with my findings I can conclude that we humans are headed in the right direction in this whole renewable energy debate. This right direction is the fact to move towards renewable energy such as windmills and solar panels. In a thought of my own a high school very near mine is creating a roof that will be made out of solar panels. This will cut down the school usage energy close to half. This could be a real good message that could be sent to other schools around that area.

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